

Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act

[Public Law 117–125]

[This law has not been amended]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 117-125. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act”.

SEC. 2. PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) Each judicial officer.

“(12) Each bankruptcy judge appointed under section 152 of title 28, United States Code.

“(13) Each United States magistrate judge appointed under section 631 of title 28, United States Code.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to applicable transactions occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE. Subject to paragraph (4), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish a searchable internet database to enable public access to any report required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a report is required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall make the report available on the database established under paragraph (1) in a full-text searchable, sortable, and downloadable format for access by the public.

“(3) REDACTION. Any report made available on the database established under paragraph (1) shall not contain any information that is redacted in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

“(4) ADDITIONAL TIME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of this subsection may be implemented after the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrative Office of the United States Courts identifies in writing to the relevant committees of Congress the additional time needed for that implementation.

“(B) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall continue to make the reports described in paragraph (1) available to the public during the period in which the Administrative Office of the United States Courts establishes the database under this subsection.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking “, as defined under section 109(12)”;

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking “, as defined under section 109(13)”.

(2) Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “be revealing” and inserting “by revealing”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking “be,” and inserting “be,”; and

(II) in the third sentence, by striking “may be may” and inserting “may be, may”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “described in section 109(8) or 109(10) of this Act” and inserting “who is a judicial officer or a judicial employee”.

(3) Section 107(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the last sentence by striking “and (d)” and inserting “and (e)”.